NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1882.

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THE TARIFF-IMPORTANT TAX SUIT. The House of Representatives yesterday veted, by a majority of 26, to take a recess from December 22 to January 2, thus rescinding its action of Monday; the Senate, however, it is said, will refuse to concur. The bill for the relief of distillers was discussed in the Senate and the Indian bill was passed. The Army Appropriation bill was reported to the House; Mr. Robeson's amendment to the Post Office bill was discussed. The House Ways and Means Committee contiuned the consideration of the tariff on metals. An important tax case was argued in the United States Supreme Court. It is reported that Appraiser Howard will be removed soon

A HOLIDAY RECESS VOTED. THE ACTION OF MONDAY RESCINDED BY THE HOUSE YESTERDAY-A FARCICAL SCENE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. The House wasted two louis more to-day in farcical proceedings relating to a holiday recess, and then a majority of 26 on a yea and nay vote stultified itself by adopting a proposition which it rejected yesterday by a majority of 20 on a yea and nay vote. The vote of yesterday was not taken until after a discussion of more than two hours, while that of to-day succeeded a discussion of ten minutes in which not a single new argument was used; and yet twentymembers who showed their patriotic and industrious inclinations yesterday by voting against a recess voted for one to-day. Their names are: Messrs. Caswell, Chace, DeMotte, Dunnall, Guenther, Harris (Mass.), Hazleton, Henderson, Jadwin, Smalls, Spooner. Umer, Van Aernam and Willets, Republicans; and Forney, Hoge, Jones (Ark.), Lefevre, Manning, McLane, Talbott and Wise (Va.). Democrats.

Messrs. Euckner and Davis (of Missouri), Hammond (of New-York). Hiscock and Latham, who voted for the resolution yesterday, voted against it to-day. The votes of 74 Democrats and 53 Republicans carried the resolution to-day; 73 Republicans and 28 Democrats only voted against it. Enough Republicans (fourteen) changed from the negative to the affirmative to carry the resolution without any additional help from the Democrats; so that the responsibility for a recess clearly rests upon the shoulders of the Republican majority. Chairman Keliey plainly warned the House yesterday that if a recess should be taken it would be impossible keep a quorum of the Ways and

a recess should be taken it would be impossible to keep a quorum of the Ways and Means committee in Washington during that period. Five of the thirteen members of that committee—Messrs Carlisle, Dunnell, Hubbell, Morrison and Russell—voted to-day for the recess, and three others—Messrs Errett, Kelley and Tucker—did not yets. The prospect is therefore slim indeed that the Ways and Means Committee will do anything on the Tarift bill during the recess if one be had, or, indeed even if the Secate should refuse to concur. A case-till impection of the vote shows that nearly all the Free Trade members tavored a recess, and doubtless a hope that a recess would imperit tarift legislation at this session inspired their action. Mr. Mills did not hesitate to avow that such was his hope.

The Appropriations Committee, upon which the business of the session greatly depends, is composed of fifteen members, and eight of them—Messrs Atkins, Butterworth, Cannon, caswell, Ellis, Forney, Ketcham and Lefevre—voted for the recess, and Mr. Blackburn, who did a tvote as all to-day, votad for it yesterday. Of coarse therefore no quorum of that committee can be mustered during the recess, and the work of the various sub-committees will not be presented with much diligence.

It was spparent when the House assembled this morning that, recess or no recess, it would be impossible to hold a quorum during the holidays. When the Speaker entered his desk, befound thereon requests for leave of absence from twenty-tour Representatives; and, by the time nine of these had been granted by the votes of a majority, the proceedings had become a disgraceful farce. Great confusion prevailed and several Representatives were on their feet demanding that the farce should stop, and declaring that everybody must be satisfied that the House was shamming yesterday when it virtuously decided against a holiday recess. Mr. Roleson jumped up, waving a paper and shouting that he desired to offer a resolution for a r-cess from December 22 to January 2. By straining t considerably, the Speaker admitted the resolution, which was adopted after a very short discussion.

The Republican Senators have reached an informal understanding among themselves that they will oppose any resolution for adjournment over the holiday recess. This will make it impossible for the House to adjourn for more than three days without violating the Constitution.

RELIEF OF WHISKEY DISTILLERS. GROWING OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE TO THE BILL AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- The whiskey men were not treated as tenderly to-day by the Senate as they had good reason to expect. The bill reported yesterday, extending the bonded period two years to save them, as it was argued, from certain bankruptcy, was taken up, and the Civil Service bill temporarily dis laced for the purpose, with the expectation on the part of the fri-nds of the former that it would pass without discussion and be out of the way in a few minutes.

The reading of the bill, however, seemed to recal to the minds of some Senators the fact that the same whiskey men, three or four years ago, asked relief from impending ruin and secured the extension of the bonded period from one to three years. The very act of redef asked then, as it soon appeared, so encouraged the manufacture of whiskey that the market was overstocked, and a second demand for relief was

made necessary. Senators wanted to know to-day what the whiskey men and the friends of the bill in the Senate proposed to do now, if their present demands were acquiesced in, to prevent a further increase of the stock on hand. One question led to another, and developments were made which created some surprise in the minds of Senaters who had not studied the question closely. Propositions for amendment followed, which were at all desired by the whiskey men, and finally, so poor was the showing of the friends of the bill in their

ef the friends of the bill in their attempts to defend it, that a proposition was made and carried at half-pass 5 to assume the "regular order"—namely, the Civil Service bill.

Senator Windom's amendment, fixing the first of next July as the da e upon which the new bonded period of one year is to begin, is now pending. The voting to-day made it apparent that the bill, it ever reaches a vote in the Senate, will be passed. The distress of the whiskey men is real; and, if the moral features of the question are to be left out of the consideration, very good reasons for granting them relief are to be given. If the bill passes in its present form, however, there is no reason to doubt that at the end of the two years the whiskey men will again appear for relief. This was urged in discussion by Senator Windom to-day, and Senator Ingails went even further, asserting his belief that the next time they came they would demand that the whole tax be re-mitted. This was urged in discussion by Senato

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL. CHIEF POINTS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION-MILEAGE,

BREVET BANK AND RETIREMENT. Washington, Dec. 19 .- The new legislation recommended in the Army Appropriation bill, as re-ported to the House by the Appropriations Committee this morning, is as follows:

Under the head of " Pay of the Army" it provides for the payment (in addition to pay in the line) of twentyfive aides-de-camp instead of thirty-seven as recommended by the estimates. It also provides that on and after the first day of July, 1983, the General of the Army may have aides-de-camp to be selected from field officers of the line below the rank of Colohel, who, while so serving, shall each receive \$50 a month additional pay; the Lieutenant-General may have two aides de-camp, to be selected from officers of the line below the rank of Lieutenant-Coione, and who, Walle so serving, shall receive \$45 per month additional pay; that each Major-General may have two aldes-de-camp, to be selected from the Captains or First-Lieuten-

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

CONGRESS, COMMITTEE AND COURT.

HOLIDAY RECESS STILL IN DOUBT—THE BILLS
DISCUSSED IN THE TWO ROUSES—REVISION OF
THE TARIFF—IMPORTANT TAX SUIT.

A mis of the line, who shall each, while so serving, receive \$35 per month additional pay; that ench Brigadier-General may have one alde-de-camp, to be selected from the First-Licutenants of the line, who shall, while so serving, each receive \$30 per month additional pay; provided, however, that except the senior aide-de-camp of the General commanding the Army, no office a shall reneal nabsent from his regiment on such duty for a longer period than three years.

With regard to officers' mileage it has the following

provision:

Section 1,306 of the Revised Statutes is hereby so amended as to strike out the word "fifty" where it occurs in said ection, and in lieu thereof inserting the word "ten" for mileage of officers of the Army for travel, over shortest through routes, not to exceed \$175,000; and from and after the passage of this act mileage of officers of the Army shall be computed over the shortest through routes between the points named in the order, and the necessity for such travel in the military service shall be certified to by the officer issuing the order, and stated in said order.

Concerning retirements and brevet rank it has the

Concerning retirements and brevet rank it has the following provisions:

Provided, that nothing contained in the act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the support of the Army for the facel year ending June 30, 1881, approved June 30, 1882, shall be so construed as to prevent, dust or restrict retirements from active service in the Army as aumorized by law in force at the date of the approval of said act; retirements under the provisions of said act of June 30, 1882, being in audition to those therefolore authorized by law; and provided further, that officers of the Army shall only be assigned to duty or command according to their brevet rank when neutally engaged in hostilities.

Under the head of army, transportation the bill not

Under the head of army transportation the bill pro-

That for the better accomplishment of the That for the better accomplishment of the object of the acts authorizing the construction of the railroads become the referred to find the better to secure the Government the use and benefit of the same, all acts authorizing the bull sing and construction of those railroads which have received, in addition to land grants, Government aid by loan or guarantace of bonds by the United States, and all other acts, parts of acts and provisions having relation theoret, are hereby so altered, amended and moduled that acreater the compensation paid or allowed for carrying and transportation of the property or troops of the United States by such railroad companies or their assigns or successors shall not exceed 50 per cent of the amount paid by private persons for the same kind of service.

The total amount of the estimates for 1884 is \$28,644.143 44. The total amount of appropriations for

644.143 44. The total amount of appropriations for 1883 (exclusive of \$592,685 90 for Signal Service and 1883 (exclusive of \$502,085 90 for Signia errice are the 2249,860 for general-service men in the War_Depart ment, making \$842,545 90), \$26,413,454 10. Amountecommended in this sill for 1834, \$24,681,700. Decrease a der 1883, \$1,733,754 10; decrease under estimates, \$3,962,443 44.

THE POST OFFICE BILL IN THE HOUSE. Washington, Dec. 19 .- The House devoted much of to-day's session to debate on the Post Office Appropriation bill, beginning with the consideration of the obeson amendment, providing that railroad companies which have received bond subsidies in audition to grants of public lands, suali receive as compensation for carry-ing the mails 50 per cent of the amount now allowed to them for that purpose. Mr. Robeson explained that his amendment was intended as an amendment to the charter of these railroads, declaring the legislative intention, and said that when the reduction was made these roads would still have more compensation than any other rail-

Mr. Caswell opposed the amendment as being in conflict with the rights which some of the railroads aimed at had obtained; Congr.ss could not invade vested rights. Mr. Hewitt, of New-York, said it was immaterial waether toat power rested in Congress or not; if it rested nere it ought not to be exercised, because if the power sation allowed to these companies to 50 per cent, there was no reason why it should not require these was no reason way it should compensation at all...
Was Congress prepared to begin the work of the couldscation of private property? It might have the right, the physical right, to do this thing, but was it prepared to begin the work of condecation which, when once approved by a vote of the House, would proceed with learful strides until it ended in the logical result—Com-

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, offered and advocated an Mr. Holman, of Indiana, offered and advecated an amendment providing that land grant roads (as distinguished from those which have also received bend substitue) and to other roads which have not received for action alowed to other roads which have not received Government aid. Mr. Hiscock, of New-York, opposed Mr. Holman's amendment, but advocated that offered by Mr. Roseson. He dealed that the amendment would strike down the sinking fund, as arged by Mr. Hewist, to the extent of one dollar. It was merely a question of keeping counts. Mr. Robeson repudiated the dost that Congress and no power to do so, and demed that there was any vested right in the companies which availed to say that their charters should not be amended.

REPRESENTATIVE NOLAN'S SECOND BILL.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 19 .- Congressman Nolan, who is described in the Congressional Directory as "the surviving member of the firm of Quinn & Nolan, ale brewers, or Alpany, and also the president and treasurer of the Beaverwick Lager Beer Brewing Company," introduced a bill to-day repeating Section 3,339 of the Revised Statutes and sub-divivisions 1 and 5 of Section 3,244, as amended by Section 4 of the act approved March 1, 1879, " To Amend the Laws Relating to Internai Revenue," and " all laws and parts of laws regulating the manufacture or sale of fermented liquors." The repent is to take effect March 1, 1883. This is the second bit Mr. Nolan has introduced in tals Congress. He has been present nearly every day this session, and his in-dustry and punctuality are beginning to be subjects of favorable remark.

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- The Senate to day

passed the Iudian Appropriation bill, with amendments as follows: An amendment requiring the Secretary of the Interior to have the approval of the President in setting aside bids detrimental to the interests of the Government: an amendment providing that the approcover also the cost of their transportation; an amendment appropriating \$5,000 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to complete negotiations with the Sloux; an mendment directing the removal of the Crow agency amendment directing the removal of the Grow agency to some point cast of the Big Horn River in the vicinity or Fort Custer; an amendment providing that the Seminois still remaining in Florida small receive their since of the money appropriated so pay the toterest due that tribe under treaty simplications; and an amendment providing that any disbursing officer or other person who small present any vouccer, account or calm to a United states officer for approval or payment containing any material misrepresentation of fact shall not receive payment or credit for any part of such claims.

CONGRESSIONAL TOPICS IN BRIEF.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- In the Senate to-day a bill was introduced and referred for the regulation of telegraphic and cable companies. Mr. Barrow was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Claims and Mr. Harris to fill one on the Committee on Rules. A resolution was offered and referred to the Committee on Finance, declaring it to be the sense of the senate that in case of the reduction or abolition of the tax on topacco, at this session, there should be allowed a correspond-ing redate of the tax paid on stock on hand at the time the law goes into effect, provided such stock is stamped and in unbroken packages. The House resolution for a holiday recess was received and referred.

In the House a resolution was offered and referred calling on the Postmaster-General for information as to waether any officer of the Post Office Department has issued an order prohibiting letter carriers from wearing vercoats, and, if so, who and for what purpose! A oint resolution was reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and passed, reciting that the Government of France proposes to establish at Tunis a judicial system common among Christian nations, so that the courts in that country shall be fully opened for the protection of citizens of the United States in their person, property and rights, and authorizing the President to declare by proclamation that the right on the part of the United States and its citizens to claim extra-territorial jurisdiction within said territory of Tunis has ceased,

and will no onger be claimed or exercised. Bills were introduced and referred for the relief of the widow of Kear Admiral David McDongali; granting pensions to the survivors of certain Indian wars; to prevent Federal office holders from intercring with the freedom of elections; to prevent the importation of adulterated teas; for the reflet of the heirs of Count adulterated teas; for the relief of the heirs of Connét Palaski; to prevent frauns in the customs revenue; flxing the rate of postage on drop-letters at 1 cent; to repeal the laws adowing the preemption of the public lands. A resolution was adopted matricting the Gardield Board of Aunit to report to the flouse a cauchdne or all the chains presented to and allowed by them. The Speaker announced as the execut on the part of the flouse to the burnal of the flat Representative Orth, of Indiana. the burnal of the late Representative Orth, of Indiana, costs, Calkins, Peirce, Steele, Watson, Davis, of Illinois;

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Washington, Dec. 19.-Lieutenant A. C. Oillingnam has been ordered to duty at the Norfolk Navy Yard ; Lieutenant S. P. Comley to temporary duty at the League Island Navy Yard, Penn.; Midshipman P. V. Lanedaie to examination for promotion. Lieutenant William McLittle has reported his return home, having been detached from the Adams on the 30th of October, and has been piaced on sick leave. Lieutenaus E. H.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

GERMANY, RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA. LONDON, Dec. 19 .- The correspondent of The Times at Berlin says: The only topic engaging at-tention here is the relations between Germany and Russia. Russian exchange was never lower on the Berlin Bourse since the battle of Plevna than now. One hundred ruble notes of the nominal value of 320 marks were quoted on Monday at 195 marks offered.

The panie seems mainly due to an article in the Vos-sische Zeitung concerning the echeloning of the Russian informed circles both in Berlin and Vienna as absurd, but its effect on business shows that uncasiness has been raised in the mind of the public by what is known as Prince Besonarch's newspaper campaign. This con-

The Kreuz Zeilung says that as all kinds of synaptems and rumors were reported from Russia of a tendency opposed to the ameable sentiments of the Czar and M. de Grens it was deemed expedient to throw out a reminder that the prescient policy of Germany had sufficiently provided for all emergencies.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—The Anstro-German alliance meets with the unmixed approval of the entire German press. The German a says the prolongation of the treaty will effectually bar fundates the trictures, Russia's expansion aspirations and Frenca plans or revenze.

London, Dec. 20.—A dispatch from Berlin to The Daily News says: "Herbert Bismarck has returned from Vionna, where he had gone with dispatches connected with the Austro-German alliance. Austria and Germany have arrived at an understanding in regard to measures to be taken in view of the Russian military operations."

FINANCIAL MEASURES IN FRANCE.

Paris, Dec. 19 .- The Budget Committee to-day considered the proposed credit of 31,000,000 frames to defray the cost of the army of occupation in Tunis. After a long discussion the committee decided to vote 23,000,000 francs for the maintenance of the army of occupation, but declined for the present to grant the remaining 8,000,000 francs required for fortification

In the debate on the Budget in the Senate to-'ay M. Leon Say said he hoped and believed that the state of the funnces was more favorable than M. Ribot, the reporter of the Budget Committee, supposed. The diffienities of the situation, he said, were the outcome of the series of poor harvests, loss of capital through speculation, and laxity in the collection tal through speculation, and laxity in the concents of taxes. The anticipations of surpluse had proved fallactous in some instances, but he believed that the existing state of things would be only temporary. It was useless to propose fresh taxation, but it was necessary to stop it of growth of expenditure, which must be proportional to that of the income. It behooved stateamen to place the finances on a sound basis, in order to prepare the country for a renewal of the powers of the Chambers in 1885, set it was especially advisable not to accumulate difficulties for that period.

AFFAIRS IN IRELAND.

Dublin, Dec. 19 .- At Loughrea yesterday a number of laborers paraded the streets demanding work or food, and declaring that they were starving. They surrounded the house of Bishop Duggan, who distributed

participation in the Phunix Park murders, and was remanded.

remanded.

Edmond Slattery, who recently returned from America, was arrested at Tulla last evening under the Curfew Clause of the Repression Act.

It has been decided that the terms of office of resident magnification in Ireland which expire at the end of December shall be extended to the end of June.

London, Dec. 19.-The storm in northeast cotland, which began yester lay, continues. Three vessels have gone a hore. The crews of all were drowned. which arrived this morning from Twillingate, reports that the greatest storm of fifty years was experienced there on Tuesday last. Twenty-two vessels of different sizes were totally wrecked in Green Bay. stages and flakes were swept away in every direction. The senooner Island Home was lost during the gale at Kettle Cove, Conception Bay. The names of the vessels which were driven ashore in Twillingate Harbor are Lucy, Rippie, Er-bus, Abyssinia, Pennsula, Resiless, Ransom and stanger. At the Arm the Wild Rover and Dalleys went ashore.

MARIEVILLE, Que., Dec. 19 .- A collision ocarred to-day on the Southwestern Railway two miles south of Richelien Station between a passenger express train and a locomotive macking up from West Farnnam. None of the passagers were seriously injured, but the driver of the express train was badly hurt. The loco-

at Encraon and 400 at winnings, and good and will at once obtain patents for their homesceads.

The City Commed bas received an offer frem Edinburgh, Scotland, of 1992 for \$500,000 worth of desentures and a month is assed in which to take the remaining \$500,000 at par. Financial agents have been appointed for the city in New-York, London and Edinburgh.

MONTREAL, Dec. 19.-The Montreal Transportation and St. Lawrence and Chicago Forwarding Companies have amalgamated.

A young man named Redmond, while laboring under an attack of insanity, escaped from his father's house to day with only als night clothes on, and threw himself into the canal here and was drowned.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 1882. At a meeting in Madrid of the shareholders of the Bank of Spain the issue of 100,000 new shares was approved.

The Journal de Paris says that M. Gambetta is suffering from slight inflammation of the bowels. His condition is not alarming, but will make necessary several days of uninterrupted treatment. The news of his illness has caused a greac sensation.

A dispatch from Innspruck, Austria, says that Baron Alexander Paul Rammingen has been convicted of the charges of swindling brought against him, and has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with depriva-tion of Lis title of nobility.

A dispatch from Berlin says: The preliminary preparations for rendering the Weser navigable for sea-going vessels from Bremerhaven to Bremen have been marks and will propably occupy six years. When com-pleted it will give an immense impetus to trade between Breasen and New-York. Postmaster-General Fawcett is now fairly convales

The Council General of the Seine has expressed the desire that the French Government proceed with the Simplen Tunnel scheme, in order to step German manu-

factures from being substituted by way of the St. Gothard Tunnel for those of France in Italy.

It is semi-officially announced in Paris that the Chinese evacuated Tonquin in pursuance of orders from Pekin, that the relations between France and China are

RECEPTION TO HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

BANGOR, Me., Dec. 19 .- A public reception to the Hon. dannical Hamiin upon his return from Madria, where he has been for the past year as United States Minister, was held this evening in the City Hall. An audience which filled the hall to repletion assem-bled. Mayor Seri ktand presided. C. A. Bourele ad-dressed cordial words of greeting to the distinguished great, recarding imany events connected with his career, and extending a warm welcome on behalf of his neigh-bers and trigods.

and extending a warm welcome on behalf of his neighbors and friends.

As Mr. Humun stepned forward to respond, he was greeted when loud apphase. He expressed deep gratification at his warm reception and sant it did not bedt him to speak of his pholic hie and services, but he could say he had endea-vered to do his dury as pest he knew. He was proud to say there was not a single act in his political file he would boto out. He not returned home, he said, with a cio-er love for his own country and a more thorough apprendation of her lastitutions. Mr. Hamilia announced he had come home to stay and could conceive of no effective which could take him away from his freeside.

MEETINGS OF IRON MANUFACTURERS.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19.-The Malleable Iron Manufacturers' Association of the United States met New-York, New-Haven, Philadelphia, Erie, Cincinnati New-tors, New-Haven, Philadelphia, Erie, Chrombai and other piaces. It is understood the meeting was for the purpose or considering the advisability of advancing prices, which are not satisfactory. To-morrow is the date set for the general convention of the iron manufac-turers of new Sest. The meeting is for the purpose of accertaining the true condition of the trade, and to dis-cuss the best method of keeping up prices.

A DUAL ADMINISTRATION ENDED.

Petersbueg, Va., Dec. 19 .- The Court of Appeals at Rienmond to-day rendered a decision in the Petersburg mandamus cases which abolishes the dual municipal admi.istration. The decision is in favor of Virginius Johnson, Democrat, who contested the right of E. W. Couch, Readjuster, the present incumbeut, to hold

the office of City Treasurer, to which he was elected at the municipal election in May.

THE FIRE RECORD

SEVERAL FIRES DOWNTOWN. There were several small fires downtown last ight. None did much damage, except to the nerves of the members of the Fire Department. At No. 65 Pearlst., near Coenties Slip, where a fire broke out, there was a narrow escape from loss of life. The building is four stories high. The flames started The building was mostly occupied by offices, but on the second floor lived the owner, W. R. Preston, and on the top floor the family of Patrolman Carlin, of the New-st. station, consisting of his wife, five children, from sixteen months to fourteen years of nge, and an aunt. The fire was discovered about 8 o'clock by Officer Ellis, and Engine No. 10 and several policemen were on hand promptly. Officers James T. Brady, Daniel Flizgerald and William Newell, knowing that Officer Carlin's family were in the nouse, groped their way up ramily were in the nouse, groped their way up stairs through the thick smeke, accompanied by two firemen. To women and children were terrified and screaming and uncertain which way to turn. The smoke travelled as first as the rescuers, and they found they could not retreat the way that they came, so with their ciubs and shoulders they burst open the skylight and passed the women and children up to the roof, the smoke following them in a dense volume. In a minute more they would have been sufficiented. They field oan adjoining roof and wated till the fire was subdied.

Fire was discovered later on the top floor of No. 75.

dired.

Fire was discovered later on the top floor of No. 75
Nassau-st., occupied by N. Durlach, a Jewelry manufacturer. The flames were soon under control, but the stock was damaged \$1,500 and the building \$1,000. The cause of the fire was not known.

A fire, causing a loss of about \$15,000, broke out last evening in a building known as Gothic Hall, and occupied by the 34 Galling Battery, in Adams-st., near Concord-st., Brooklyn. The building was almost entirely desteoyed, together with the contents, consisting of the arms and equipments of the Battery. These included among other property four Garling gans, three newsters, seven y-five carbines and eighty-four saidles. The less on the contents will tail upon the State and is estimated at \$10,000. The Battery had only occapied the building for six months. The loss to the company was about \$1,000, and the Janifor, who lived in the structure, lost about as much. The loss upon the building owned by John Wilson, was about \$3,000. It was created for a church about fifty years ago and was one of the landmarks of the city. It was afterward a ball-room and occupied by the City Ginaris and used also as a public nail. At the fire Edwart Abererounbic, of No. 709 Nostrand-ave., afterman, was bally injured by a failing wall. While on the way to the fire Engine No. 5 ran over E. J. Curtin, of No. 75 Sveamore-st., in Pierrepont-st., and caused a fracture of his femur.

Some alarm was caused early yesterday morning by a slight fire in the Hanover Apartment House, at Fifth-ave. and Fifteenth-st., which is managed by W. E. Allis. The building is occupied by about eighty persons. At 2 a. m. it was discovered that a beam had been set on fire by sparks from a defective flue. A few strokes with an axe laid the beam bare, and the flames were extinguished without the use of water. The pres-ence of the firemen in the building caused the limited to rush into the haifs and prepare for flight, but all danger was over so quickly that quiet was soon restored. The damage by the fire was trilling.

Boston, Dec. 19-11:15 P. M.-Three alarms have been sounded for a fire in the five-story brick building at New Washington-st. and Cornhill, occupied by John P. Lovell and Sons, dealers in firearms, powder and sporting goods. The fire was caused by an explosion, and for ten minutes after the flames were seen there was

and for ten minutes after the flames were seen there was a series of smell explosions of cariridges, etc. It is reported that Mr. Lovel; and another man, who were in the building at the time of the explosion, were seriously injured. The fire is now blazing flereely through the entre building, which undoubtedly will be burnel out, the flames seeming to defy the efforts of the firemen.

Mr. Lovel had stock valued at \$125,000 in the building, and this must in a large part be ruined. Upon this there is \$70,000 insuisance, but in what companies it is placed it is impossible to state at present. The building is probably damaged to the amount of \$10,000. At 12:15 the fire was extinguished and most of the engines had gone. Later.- The fire is now-11:45 p. m.--

It was caused by an explosion of gas in the lower story of the building. Warren Lovell, one of the firm, and Oscar Peavy, a watchman, were badly burned about the head, throat and arms. It is understood that they will BUSINESS PLACES AND COTTON BURNED.

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 19 .- A dispatch to The News from Corsicana says: " A fire here early Sun. None of the passingers were seriously injured, but the driver of the express train was badly hurt. The locomotives were wrecased.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 19.—A 1,000 Mennonites, 600 at E. erson and 400 at Winnipeg, have just been made at E. erson at E

A STEAMBOAT BURNED.

New-Orleans, Dec. 19 .- A dispatch from Monroe, La., to The Times-Democrat states that a fire broka out on the steamer Central City after she had lett Mouroe on Sunday, and that she was burned to the water's edge, near Farmer's Bar. The vessel and cargo are a total loss; fully insured. No loss of life is reported.

LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES. GRAND FORKS, D. T., Dec. 19 .- Fire here last night destroyed about a dozen business places, causing a loss of about \$100,000, which is one-half covered by insurance. The companies which lose are the Hartford, New-York Underwriters, North British and Mercauthe, American, of Philadelphia; Northwestern Na-tional, of Milwaukee; and German, of Freeport, Iil. CORSICANA, Tex., Dec. 19.-The loss by the fire here on Sunday is now estimated at between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The tire was the work of an incendiary.

Conors, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- On Friday the building occu pied by Benson & sessions, marketinen, on Hart-st., was partially destroyed by fire. Evidence sufficient to impit cate the proprie ors has been obtained, and their arrest was effected to-day. The insurance is neld by the Lori-lard Insurance Company, of New-York.

THE OIL MARKET EXCITED.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19 .- In the afternoon today a report that the Reno well was flowing fast occasioned intense excitement, and a veritable panie ensued. The market opened at 9419, but on the receipt of anfavorable news began tumbing, and did not stop ununiavorate news Seta was bid, a decline of 14 from the highest price of the day. In the morning the trading was quite brisk, but in the afternoon little oil changed

BRADFORD, Penn., Dec. 19 .- The oil market received a erious blow to-day, the disturbing cause being reports that the Reno well in Forest County and preved to be even a larger gusher than the Grandin well. The market opened at 9612, and gradually advanced to 98, when the reports from the Keno well began to come in, and prices reports from the Reno well began to come in, and prices immediately weakened, reaching 934 at a quarter past 12 and closing at 935. Opening at 944 in the afternoon, further and more dangerous reports from the Reno well sent prices down again with a rush, and the market finally closed amid great exchangate at 844, the lowest figure of the day. The same were 5,440,000 parrels.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

DOVER, N. H., Dec. 19 .- Two shight but very perceptible shocks of earthquake, last ends, were experienced here at about 5:15 p. in. to-day, causing great alarm. The shocks were accompanied by a rumbing noise. They were feit in Rollinsford, Roches-ter and other neighboring towns. The people rushed out of their houses much bewildered. CONTOCCOOK, N. H., Dec. 10. -The heaviest earthquake

shock experienced here in ten years occurred at 5.20 p. m. to-day. It last d several seconds. CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 19 .- One of the severest earth-

quake shocks ever experienced here occurred at twentyfour minutes past 5 o'clock this afternoon. There was a ound like a heavy explosion, buildings were shaken, and the inmates rushed into the streets. The concussion and the invates rushed into the streets. The concession extinguished the gas in one building. The shock seemed to those indoors like that of some heavy object failing, and appeared to be above rather than below. It evidently travelled from east to west, and was feit in Pittsfield about some minutes later than here. It was also felt at Great Falls, Manchester and other places. The shock lasted eight or ten seconds.

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 19.—A freight train was run into by another freight train to-day at Melrose, near tois city, on the Troy and Boston road. A locomotive and thirty-five cars were wrecked. John Reardon, of Pittsfield, a brakeman, who had been discharged and who was riding to Troy in the caboose to get his pay, was instantly killed. Francis Brundage, of Pittsfield, a brakeman, who had been discharged and who was riding to Troy in the caboose to get his pay, was instantly killed. Francis Brundage, of Pittsfield, a brakeman, will die, his back having been brokem. Engineer Charles Kiling seek and George Cross and Dennis O'Brien, brakemen, were injured, but will recover. One of the trains was nearly two nours late when the acoident occurred.

SUIT FOR INFRINGEMENT OF PATENTS.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19.—The Atlantic Giant

Powder Company, of California, entered a suit in the United States Court to-day against Moreus Hulings for alleged infringement of valuable patents covering certain processes employed in the manufacture of giant powder, nitro-glycerine and other explosives.

| DECEIVING OLD MR. CLOCK. | LED AWAY BY A SPRUCE YOUNG MAN. | SWINDLED OUT OF \$1,500 AND CHECKS FOR A

RAILROAD NEWS.

THE CITY NOT RESPONSIBLE. George H. Andrews, Counsel to the Corporaion, yesterday transmitted to William M. Ivina, Mayor

Grace's secretary, the following letter:

REPORTS RECEIVED IN ALBANY. ALBANY, Dec. 19 .- The following railroad sented, and when the place was reached some impantes have reported to the State Engineer for the year ended September 30 :

year ended September 30:

The Maniantian Kallway Company.—Passenger carnings, \$5,922,688 12: total carnings, \$5,973,633 41: total charges against carnings, \$5,357,601 62:

The New York, Woodmyen and Rockaway Company.—Passenger carnings, \$132,470 64: total carnings, \$134,403 44: total charges against carnings, \$134,413 59.

The darnord and Connectent Western Retivay Company.—Passencer carnings, \$110,110 30; total carnings, \$307,106 79; total charges against carnings, \$332,822 14. The Broodlyn, Bath and Choney Island Railway Company.—Passencer carnings, \$42,258 02; total carnings, \$99,358 57; total charges against carnings, \$48,595 74.

The Boston, Hoosas Tunnel and Western Kallway Company.—Passenger carnings, \$933,946; total carnings, \$348,628 72.

The Rochester and Pittsburg Railway.—Passenger carnings, \$110,275 35; total carnings, \$305,088 92; total carges against carnings, \$15,268 50.

The Buffalo, Pittsburg and Western Kallroad.—Passenger carnings, \$246,502 18; total carnings, \$708,234 18.

The New-York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad.—Capital stock and instalment account, \$12,706,400; tunded doot, \$19,523,000; anfanded doot, \$12,706,400; tunded doot, \$19,523,000; anfanded doot, \$23,750,000;

the New-York, West Shore and Buffalo Rallroad,— spital stock and instalment account, \$12,706,400; funded dest, \$19,523,000; unfunded dest, \$327 50; cost of road and equipment, \$32,209,553 75; cash on hand, \$150 38; iand accounts in process of adjustment, \$20,623 37.

HARTFORD AND CONNECTICUT WESTERN. HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 19 .- The annual meeting of the Hartford and Connecticut Western Railroad Company was held in this city this afternoon. The report of the directors shows an increase of business in the last year, and that permanent improvement have been made by the laying of 1,600 tons of steel rail clearing cuts, building new bridges, adding new freight cars, etc., the net cost of the improvements having been \$1,339,349 40. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: W. L. Gilbert, of Winsted; Thomas Cornell, R. B. Carpenter and S. G. Dimock, of Rondout, N. Y.; C. I. Hillyer, L. B. Merriam and J. F. Jones, of Hartford; Frederick Alles, Whitam H. Barnum, A. H. Holley and L. Dunning, of Salbsbary; E. T. Butier, of New-York, and J. O. Phelps, of Simsbury.

THE NEW RAILROAD SCHEME.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.-Messrs. Knight, Lewis and Lappacett, the committee appointed to act with President Gowen in formulating the new financial the receivers, held a final meeting to-day, and will tomorrow present their report to the Board of Managers. The committee are unanimous in the conclusions reached, and it is understood the plan will be adopted by the floard without a dissecting vote. The receivers of the road have given notice of their intention to pay the next coupon of the general mortgage loan at maturity, that is on and after January 2.

AFTER THE WAR IN THE NORTHWEST. CHICAGO. Dec. 19.-The general managers and the general freight and passenger agents of the ately warring Northwestern roads are busy arranging desails of east-bound business from Minneapolis and St. Paul. The main features of the agreement are understood to have been unity stated in the recent authorized statement of Mr. Cable. The penalty for a violation of the agreement is said to be from \$5.00 to \$1,000.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE. ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- The Attorney-Gen-

eral has gone to Norwica to be present to-morrow at the Boston Hoosac Tunnel and Western Railroad Com- pictures. ST. THOMAS, Ont., Dec. 19 .- The chief officers of the

Michigan Central Railroad Company were here last night and arranged for the transfer of the offices of the Canada Southern Railway Company to Decroit. AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 19.-The directors of the Maine

Central Railroad Company to-night unanimously reelected Payson Tucker vice-president and general mana-BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 19.-The Mayor, Aldermen and

City Cierk were to-day served with an injunction the effect of which is to forbid them to give the right of way to lay tracks to the Buffalo Creek Railroad Company on a strip of land valued at \$100,000 and owned by the SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 19 .- James A. Eads to-day made a preliminary report to the United States Court here, in the matter of his receiver-hip of the Danville,

Olney and Ohio River Railway, stating that \$3.00,000 would be required to put the road in good order and \$200,000 to pay off its debts. He dien resigned the recurrency. The Court will appoint his successor in the

WORKMEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY. BALTIMORE, Dec. 19 .- When the glass man-

ufactories in South Baltimore started work, in September, a number of the glass-blowers refused to resume work, on account of a reduction of wages. The establishments of Baker Brothers and King & Brother re sumed work with non union men, and swindell Brothers Since the latter began work is is charged that the old work to be be a stamped, by instandation and persuasion, to provent the langorted and non-union glassicowers from working, and to-day seventeen of the union men were arrested, energed with conspiracy and held to bail. imported a number of glass-blowers from Beigium.

THE GREEN DRIVEN-WELL PATENT.

UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- The meaning of the United States Supreme Court decisions in cases Nos. 70 and 330, is that the reissue of the arees driven-well patent is sastained. The matter is of consequence in this vicinity where in half-a-dozen counties, more tain 300 of the rights for this State, for the collection of royalty.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

A MICHIGAN MAN'S SUICIDE IN TEXAS.
GROESBECK Tex., Dec. 19.—James A. Snowden, of rand Rapids, Mich., upon aligning from a train here yes utay cut his throat. It will die.

DEATH RESULTING FROM INJURIES.

ATLANTA, Gu., Dec. 19.—Rica, and Pi aman, a well-nown non here died this morning from shock consequent pon having his legs cut off by a train on Saturday. MINER-BURNED BY AN EXPLOSION OF GAS.
SHENAND AR, Penn., Dec. 19.—Henry Fry and
George lank were severely burned by an explosion of gas today at No. 4 Collegy of the Lenga Valley Coal Company.

lay at No. 4 (collery of the Lehiga Valley Coal Company,
ACQUITTED OF CHARGE OF B. IBERY.

POUGHEEPSIE, Dec. 19.—The case of Deputysherif Howland, indicted for violating the Election law in
stempting to bribe a voter, was concluded this morning, the
sury returning a verdict of not gaility.

A LIFE SENTENCE FOR PARICIDE.

WORGESTER, Mass., Dec. 19.—In the Supreme
Court this morning, George H. Richardson, of Charlion, was
sentened to state Prison for life for the murder of his father,
Scionon H. Richardson, in February.

A RUNAWAY COUPLE SUPPOCATED.

Sciomon H. Richardson, in February.

A RUNAWAY COUPLE SUFFOCATED.

R CHESTER, Dec. 19.—1 norms Doy e and Katio
A. Morgan, from Oneida County, who had been boarding at a
house in Courtst, this city, were suffocated by gas in their
room last night. They were evidently a runaway couple.

LARGE AMOUNT.

Alfred Clock, of No. 539 Madison-ave., was on

Thursday last made the victim of a swindling

operation somewhat similar to that practised upon Charles Francis Adams recently. Mr. Clock is over eighty years of age and is possessed of considerable property. had a stroke of paralysis a year or two ago and he has been rather weak-minded ever since then. On Thursday, contrary to his usual custom. Mr. Clock had been down town alone. He was returning home on a Fourth-ave, car when a spruce-appearing young man called him by name and inquired after the members of his family. Mr. Clock entered into conversation with the young man, who said that his name was Stokes and that he was a neighbor of Mr. Clock. After a few minntes' conversation, Stokes said that he would have to leave the car at the next corner, as he was going to a place where he had won considerable money the week before by betting on horse-races. The car was then about up to Thirty-seventhst., and Stokes said that if Mr. Clock would accompany him to the place, where he was going to draw his money, he would then go up town with him. The old centleman at once con-

this remarked: "You have got a chance in the lottery. Don't you want to draw ?" "Ob. I never have any luck in such things," replied the innocent Stokes.

money was paid over to Stokes. The man who did

"Then why not let your friend draw !" said the man. This seemed to strike Stokes as a very good idea, and Mr. Clock was asked to draw a number out of a box filled with tickets. The man, who was manipulate ing the game, announced that Mr. Clock had won 4 large sum for Stokes, and he politely invited him, since he had had such good lack, to draw a number on his own account. Mr. Clock drew several times and was then informed that he owed the house \$50. He persevered, however, and was presently told that \$128 would be quired to cancel his indebtedness. He gave a eneck for this amount, and continued the game, giving our checks frequency. One of them was for no less a sum than \$6,000. They were drawn on the rifth Avenue National Bank, where Mr. Clock has an account. One of the people in the room finally suggested that the old gentleman should go to the bank and craw a little cash and end-avor to get back his losings. A can was cated, and \$60kes and Mr. Clock are w \$1,500 from the bank, and then returned with the two men to the seem of his losses. When they elected, the man cooky put the roll of bill in his pocket and said that the account was square, returning to the old man at the same time a check for \$125, which he had given him.

Ar. Clock returned nome and reflaced his experience to his daughter and two grandsons with whom he lives, ite was very mach excited and it was reared that he wond have another at account was square, returned nome and reflaced his experience to his daughter and two grandsons with whom he lives, ite was very much excited and it was reared that he would have another at acc of paleysis. The has not yet recovered from the effects of the adventure. Mr. clock's grandsons at once took fega, advice and actectives were set to work on the case. The cashier of the Firth Avenue Bank no leed that a strange man was with ar. quired to cancer his indebtedness. He gave

once took legal advice and detectives were set to work in the case. The cashier of the Phith Avenue had a noticed that a strange man was with articlosk when he drew the \$1,500. He took note or his appearance, half suspecting that something was wrong, as air. Clock was usually accompanied to the bank by ms dangater, airs. Micsecole. He therefore was able to give the detectives a good account of the appearance of one of the swindiers, and on Monday Edwards was acrested, he count have been arrested before, but the detectives delayed, hoping to get his patther in criangless. Mr. Clock, owing to his age and infirmities, is not able to give a ciear account of the appearance of the men or of the piace where he was taken. Edwards when attaigned before Justice, Kribrich in the Yorkvine Poince Court said that he was by occupation a cookkeeper and that he fived in Ligath-ave. He was committed without balf for trial on a charge of larceny in the first degree.

Mr. Clock has no been in business for many years, he was formerly in the real estate business and owns a large amount of property both in this vidowest dangater, Mrs. Evelina Micsesole, and her two sous, A and A. V. Meserole, Once ocfore, about two years ago, at New-Haven, air, Clock was made the victim of a somewhat si air air transaction, octag induced to give cheeas and cash for a large amount for one or two worthless pictures.

THE CITY OF CHESTER HEARD FROM.

The steamer Amsterdam, of the Royal Netherlands Line, arrived last night with merchandise and eigh.y-two passengers for Funch, Edye & Co. The Amsterdam sailed from Amsterdam on December 2 and was one day overque. the officers report that moderate weather was met with until the Banks of Newfoundland were reached. Then it was boisterous until the vessel reached St. George's Shoals. On December 15, in latitude 44° 10', longitude 54° 50', the steamer City of Chester, of the Inman Line, was passed, it being in tow of the City of Berlin, of the same line. The former steamer had lost her rudder and rudder post. At the time the ves-sels were significating were hading west and making about six miles at hour, the sea being very rough and a strong west gale olowing. The Chy of Berlin, which is compelled to return with her sister vessel, sailed from aims port on December 9 for Liverpool. The Chy of Caenter has been overdue six days, having sailed from Liverpool on Decem-ber 7. the same line. The former that the time the ves-her runder and runder post. At the time the ves-her runder and runder were hading wes, and

FRAGMENTS OF WESTERN NEWS.

THE OHIO LEGISLATIVE BRISERY CASES.

THE OHIO LEGISLATIVE BRIBERY CASES.
COLUMBUS, Dec. 19.—The legislative bribery cases were maily disposed of to-my. Representative Wright was acquitted, and a noile prosequi was entered in the case of Representative Block.

THE END OF THE SCOVILLE CASE.
CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The case of Mrs. Scoville, who was recently adjudged insance and then granted a new trail, has been stricken from the docket by agreement. It is reported that the unhappy couple are reunited.

ment. It is reported that the unhappy couple are reunited.

A NEW MINING COMPANY.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 19.—Articles of
moorporation of the Consolidated Vanascrint Mining
Company were filed acro to day. The incorporators are
the incre Brothers, Ohr E. Meyer, Joan Tesch,
Carless Mitcaell, John Mitcaell, Alexander G. Gordon,
Henr? M. Wilmot and Christopher C. Fletcher. The
capital stock is \$1,200,000 in 120,000 shaves. The object of the company is a general mining business in
New-Mexico and elsewhere.

CONTENTION OVER A COUNTRY SEAT.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 19.—Great excitement
prevals in Custer Country over the attempt to remove
the county seat from Rosita to Siver Chif. A majority
of the County Commissioners have ordered the county
seat moved, but the people at Rosita say they have
enough and intend to do so. The citizens of both places
are under arms.

are under arms. TELEGRAPHIC NOIES,

THE PRICES OF SLATE.

EASTON, Penn., Dec. 19.—The State Exchange of Lehich and Nottampton counties yesterday reduced the prices of rebon same 25 cents a square to wholesane dealers but not to rooters. Tals is to be the scale on prices for the next six months. Prices for other slate remain unchanged.

A BEQUEST PAID TO HARVARD.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—E amond F. Slatter, as executor, has recently paid over to the treasurer of Harvard college \$111,000, the major part of a testamentary bequest by the late George B. Doir, of this city.

SUIT AGAINST A SUSPENDED BANK.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 19.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day argument was hearf in the case of Edward Babeak & con, of Newara, against the receiver of the Mechanics Bank, or Newark. The suit is for \$11,000, the amount of a cne. & which was in possession of the bank at the time of its failure. The compusinants ask that certain notes of theirs discontinued by the bank may be obset by any deposit they may have had at the time of the failure. Deciding reserved.

TO HAVE PRESENT POSSESSION OF HER CHILD.

Feserved.

TO HAVE PRESENT POSSESSION OF HER CHILD, NEW-HAVEN, COUR., Dec. 19.—Pending decision of the suit of Mrs. barah R. Smith against her hasband, F. S. Smith, and dec Forence to-day or dered that the mother should have possession of her child and that the father should have access to he at reasonable times.

DEATH OF DONOVAN, THE PEDESTRIAN.

BOSTON, Dec. 19—Deams bonovan, the pedestrian, died this morning at Natick of eryspelas of the brain age twenty four. He was the champion d.ty-mis runner, maring made the best fitty-mile time on record, covering to distance in 6 hours and 18 minutes at Provincine, it. L. two years ago:

HIS SANITY TO BE INQUIRED INTO.

POUGHKEET-IE, A. Y. Dec. 19.—Ju ge Iug-ils, of Troy, has granted an order that a commission issue to George Robert-son, of Troy, to examine Joseph Maskay, now commed in the Hudson stiver State Hospital, oefore a jury. Maskay, has been sent to Troy, and the examination will be neld there on Thursday. This is one of the Shikman cases.